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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY : USSR

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DATE DISTR. 5 MAR 52

SUBJECT : The "First Department" - A Security Organization in the USSR

NO. OF PAGES 3

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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[Redacted Box]

- Both in the Karpov Institute in Moscow, and in Severo-Donetsk, a department existed which obviously had no connection with the operation of the plants themselves. This division was known as the "First Department".

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It was

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quite evident that the First Department was closely connected with the security of both places.

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First Department is [Redacted Box] certainly respected and feared and the Soviets carefully avoided contact with the group.

- The chief of the First Department in the Karpov Institute in Moscow was Romanov. His office was located on the first floor of the lower "Korpus". The rooms were distinctive for their luxurious furnishings; the doors were upholstered on the inside, thick rugs were on the floor and the chairs were leather covered.

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- Another section of the First Department at the Karpov Institute was situated on the top floor of the upper "Korpus", where the books and documents were located and kept under very strict guard. [Redacted Box] received [Redacted Box] diaries from this section, and [Redacted Box]

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25X1 [ ] they were returned to the [ ] file [ ] at the end of each working day. Once every [ ] the [ ] were carefully inspected and kept for a few days for this purpose. It was on such an occasion [ ] the library of the First Department. [ ]

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6. German scientists were not permitted to travel without an official Soviet escort; on two occasions, Suchin acted as Soviet representative on trips [ ] In January 1949, Suchin accompanied Dr Herold on a vacation trip in the Caucasus region and both stayed at the Kislovodsk Sanatorium; in Herold's opinion, Suchin was an agreeable traveling companion. Suchin escorted Dr Karl Geib to Moscow in July 1949; Geib never returned from this trip. (Not until several months later were [ ] informed that Geib had been sentenced to prison; the charge was high treason.) Suchin was very non-committal when asked about Geib's whereabouts but [ ] he really knew nothing of the fate which awaited Geib. Shevzov, our "commandant", was responsible for the German group and spent a great deal of time with Suchin who [ ] through Shevzov, directed [ ] activities, acted upon [ ] requests and handled any incidents which arose pertaining to [ ] group. This close alliance between Shevzov and Suchin led [ ] to believe [ ] commandant might also have been a member of the MVD. While this belief was never made a certainty, [ ] German [ ] from Wolfen, stationed at the chemical plant at Rubeshnovo [ ] told [ ] that their commandant was an MVD member.

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7. Once [REDACTED] had a meeting with the MVD. In January or February 1955, [REDACTED] commandant summoned Dr Karl Bode to appear before the MVD. Emmanuel Baril, an interpreter, was present during the conversation which lasted for two hours. The interrogation was conducted by an officer wearing the uniform of Lt Col and a blue cap with a red band. He began by questioning Bode about his personal life; he seemed particularly interested, however, in the political feelings of Bode's colleagues and their position toward the USSR and the German Democratic Republic. All of the questions asked Bode were quite general in scope. When the Lt Col had completed his interrogation, Dr Bode was permitted to ask questions of the Soviets. He immediately asked why we were all treated like prisoners and when we would be allowed to return to Germany. The interrogator tried to laugh off this first question; in reply to the second he stated that we could expect to be back before the end of the year. He cautioned Bode not to divulge any details of this meeting to his friends; Bode immediately disregarded this request. [REDACTED] German friends at Rubeshnoye told [REDACTED] that no interrogation similar to that of Dr Bode's had been conducted with any member of their group. [REDACTED] wondered why [REDACTED] at Severo-Donetsk, and particularly Dr Bode, a politically nondescript member of our group, should be chosen for such an interview. [REDACTED] theory was that the Soviets felt that [REDACTED] group was opposed to Communism and needed watching; this surveillance we attributed to the actions of Gorb and Herold, who while in Moscow contacted the Canadian Embassy and wrote a letter to the International Red Cross urging that we be returned to Germany. [REDACTED] the Soviets considered that these actions reflected anti-Sovietism which required investigating. On the other hand, the Soviets may have felt that the group at Rubeshnoye was more pliable to their political designs, because one member of that group was a convinced Communist, while two others were sympathetic to the Soviet political theory. The Communist leanings of these three members put the Rubeshnoye group under internal political pressure which brought about their signing of the Stockholm Peace Appeal and attending the weekly political indoctrination courses.

8. [REDACTED] did not see the First Department again until [REDACTED] departure. At that time all [REDACTED] personal papers were taken away [REDACTED] and all of the photographs [REDACTED] had to be submitted for Soviet screening. The majority of the pictures which were confiscated were those of poorly dressed Soviet citizens, unattractive housing quarters, or pictures of life in the USSR which were contrary to the claims of Soviet propaganda. Suchin took the pictures but no negatives [REDACTED] doubt that he ever saw [REDACTED] entire collection of photographs, as photography was one of the few hobbies [REDACTED] in the USSR and [REDACTED] all had thousands of pictures. [REDACTED]

-end

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